

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0391  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Spector, Middleton, Henry, President Rawlings-Blake,  
Councilmembers Conaway, Clarke, Curran, Kraft, Welch, Branch, Reisinger  
Introduced and read first time: August 10, 2009

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **In Support of Federal Legislation – Comprehensive Health Reform**

3 FOR the purpose of joining the National Association of Counties (NACo) in urging the  
4 Honorable Members of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States to enact comprehensive  
5 health reform legislation before the close of the 1<sup>st</sup> session; and providing for a special  
6 effective date.

7 **Recitals**

8 The Baltimore City Council supports passage of comprehensive federal health reform  
9 legislation and, as a member organization, endorses NACo’s resolution to the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress  
10 as follows:

11 **WHEREAS**, families in Baltimore City are experiencing this crisis right  
12 now, confronting the high cost of health care that threatens their financial  
13 stability, leaves them exposed to higher premiums and deductibles, and puts  
14 them at risk for a possible loss of health insurance; and

15 **WHEREAS**, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have  
16 nearly doubled in recent years making it increasingly difficult for  
17 employers, including county governments, to provide health insurance  
18 coverage for their employees and retirees; and

19 **WHEREAS**, millions of Americans do not have health coverage, or  
20 have inadequate coverage and as our economic challenges multiply, the  
21 problem of health care access grows, further straining counties’ capacity  
22 to provide care for the uninsured, under-insured and medically indigent;  
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, there are approximately 111,751 uninsured in Baltimore.  
25 Many are hard working parents who make too much for Medicaid,  
26 \$25,600 for a family of four, and are not offered or can’t afford health  
27 coverage through their employer. Although Baltimore has a network of  
28 health safety net providers too often these uninsured Baltimoreans go  
29 without even the most basic health care including life saving preventative  
30 care; and

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 09-0391**

1           **WHEREAS**, as a result, treatable medical conditions go unnoticed until  
2 there is a crisis. Reforming the health care system will give tens of  
3 thousands of Baltimoreans access to life saving health services and  
4 treatment.

5           **WHEREAS**, county officials are elected to protect the health and  
6 welfare of their constituents; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the NACo Health System Reform Working Group, chaired  
8 by NACo President Valerie Brown held 3 regional hearings to explore the  
9 health crisis and to hear what county officials believe should be done  
10 about it and has summarized the findings in Restoring the Partnership for  
11 American Health: Counties in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health System which was  
12 approved and adopted by resolution of the NACo Health Steering  
13 Committee, Board of Directors, and Membership in July, 2009.

14           **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
15 City Council of Baltimore endorses NACo’s health reform principles, as summarized in  
16 Restoring the Partnership for American Health”: Counties in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health System;  
17 namely, that reform legislation should:

- 18           1. Restore the partnership between local and federal governments;
- 19           2. Provide access to affordable, quality health care to all;
- 20           3. Invest in public health, including health promotion and disease and injury  
21 prevention;
- 22           4. Stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net system, especially  
23 Medicaid and disproportional share hospital (DSH) payments;
- 24           5. Invest in the development of the health professional and paraprofessional  
25 workforce;
- 26           6. Ensure that local health agencies have the resources to meaningfully use health  
27 information technology;
- 28           7. Enable elderly and disabled persons to receive the services they need in the least  
29 restrictive environment; and
- 30           8. Reform the delivery and financing of health services in the jail system.

31           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board of NACo and the Baltimore  
32 City Council strongly urges the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States to enact comprehensive  
33 health reform legislation without delay before the close of the 1<sup>st</sup> session.

34           **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the  
35 Honorable Maryland Members of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States, the Governor of the  
36 State of Maryland, the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 427<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
37 Maryland General Assembly, the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Health

**Council Bill 09-0391**

1 Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of State Relations, and the Mayor's  
2 Legislative Liaison to the General Assembly.

3 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on the date it  
4 is enacted.